

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 209588

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DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA:JMMULLEN:PCS

APPROVED BY AF/PPS:JAANDEREGG

PM/SAS:DJAMES

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AF/W:JMSEGARS

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R 232249Z P 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

INFO USCINCEUR

CNO

S E C R E T STATE 209588

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, LI

SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF PATROL BOATS BY LIBERIA

REFERENCES: (A) LIBMISH MSG 171601Z SEP 74; (B) LIBMISH

MSG 180921Z SEP 74 (REPEATING LIBMISH MSG 1610Z JUNE 74)

1. REFTEL A NOTES NEGOTIATIONS IN PROCESS BY LIBERIA WITH
UK FOR CREDIT PURCHASE OF 20 METER "GUARDIAN" TYPE PATROL
BOAT AT COST OF \$65,000 AND SUGGESTS U.S. INTERCESSION
TO KEEP LIBERIA IN U.S. FMS EXCLUSIVELY.

2. WHILE IT COULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE U.S. ADVANTAGE TO BE
SOLE SOURCE OF LIBERIAN PURCHASES, THE SHARPLY LIMITED
AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR FMS CREDIT WORLDWIDE, AS WELL

AS THE \$40 MILLION LEGISLATIVE CEILING ON GRANT
MATERIEL AND FMS CREDIT FOR ALL OF AFRICA PRECLUDES THE
USG FROM TAKING THE INITIATIVE SUCH AS PROPOSED IN
PARA 3 OF REFTEL A.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 209588

3. IN CURRENT SA/FMS PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING, THE MAXIMUM FUNDS FOR FMS CREDIT FOR LIBERIA, SUBJECT TO ADEQUATE CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY AND APPROPRIATIONS, IS LIMITED TO \$500,000 PER YEAR. CONSIDERING OTHER ON-GOING LIBERIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR SPARE PARTS AND LIMITED

REPLACEMENTS FOR ARMY EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY OBTAINED FROM THE U.S., IT WOULD SEEM ADVISABLE TO KEEP THE LIMITED FMS CREDITS AVAILABLE TO MEET SUCH NEEDS.

4. CASH PURCHASES OF U.S. BOATS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT BY LIBERIA THROUGH FMS CHANNELS CAN BE CONSIDERED FAVORABLY WITHOUT IMPACT UPON EITHER THE AFRICAN CEILING OR FMS CREDIT FUNDS. FOR THE FOREGOING REASONS, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT DESIRABLE TO STAND IN THE WAY OF A LIBERIAN PURCHASE FROM THE UK SHOULD CREDIT FINANCING OF SUCH BOATS BE DESIRED AND READILY AVAILABLE. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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